marketing companies (OMCs) viz., Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPC) and IBP Co. Limited (IBP), in operation in the State of Andhra Pradesh. Out of these, 259 ROs were allotted to Scheduled Castes (SC) category and 99 ROs to Scheduled Tribes (ST) category. As per policy guidelines of OMCs for selection of dealers/ distributors, there is no provision for any reservation to 'Other Backward Classes' (OBC) category.

The company-wise break-up is as under:—

Name of OMC	SCs	STs	others	Total
IOC	144	52	687	883
HPC	45	18	618	681
BPC	54	18	561	633
IBP	16	11	255	282
TOTAL :	259	99	2121	2479

(c) to (e) No sir. As per dealer selection guidelines of the OMCs, the reservation for dealerships/distributorships for SC/ST category is 25%. Dealerships reserved under SC/ST category are progressed under Corpus Fund Scheme, wherein it is OMCs' responsibility to procure land and develop various facilities at the site. The main reason for having a backlog is inadequate response to OMCs' advertisements for procurement of land for setting up of ROs. Besides making efforts to procure land for setting up of such ROs, OMCs also plan to offer some of their Company-Owned-Company-Operated (COCO) ROs to Letter of Intent (LOI)-holders under SC/ST category, subject to suitability.

Allocation of Kerosene to Gujarat

†1588. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of Kerosene Oil Central Government allocate to the State Government of Gujarat to be given on one ration card;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the rules in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the State Government of Gujarat does not allocate kerosene oil on the basis of said rules; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (d) Allocation of PDS kerosene is made by the Government of India to State/Union Territories (UTs) on a quarterly basis for distribution under Public Distribution System (PDS). Further distribution within the States/UTs through their PDS network is the responsibility of the concerned States/UTs.

The quantity of PDS Kerosene for distribution per card holder is decided by the concerned State Govt./UT and the same varies from State to State.

Subsidy on Petrol and Diesel

1589. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no subsidy is provided on petrol and diesel for ONGC and MRPL but it is available only for State-run marketing like BPCL and HPCL; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not providing the subsidy to company like ONGC and MRPL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) In the context of unprecedented rise in international oil prices, Government adopted the principle of equitable burden sharing amongst the three stakeholders, namely the consumers, the PSU oil marketing companies and the Government, to protect the interest of the common man and the vulnerable sections of society. Government along with oil companies has decided to absorb 87.5% of the burden of the escalated international prices of crude oil, leaving only a balance of 12.5% to be borne by the consumers by way of incease in petrol and diesel prices.